

# The Journey of Hanna Joy

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## Hello All,

Sometimes three and a bit months are a long time between newsletters, this is such a case. Last time I wrote of two upcoming 'pre-allocation' trips to look at language areas ('allocations') where I might work long term and of the big decisions following these trips. The two trips are now done and after lots of prayer and discussion, the decision is in... I feel called to work long term in [Gulf Province](#) among the group of languages where the Pettersons are already working.

Last time I also introduced you to the TEA ladies, the other translators exploring allocations that I was looking at potentially forming a larger team with. Our two trips together went really well, and for five women from five different backgrounds we were blessed with little tension and good times of living and working together. Having travelled together through this year, we've now reached a point of parting of the ways. While I feel a strong pull to work with the communities in Gulf, none of the others do. Instead, a combination of needing to focus on health, pursue training and feeling pulled more to the Islands region means that none of them are allocating at this stage. This means that although I'll be working with the Pettersons, I'll also often be working on my own in a village situation.

Just as I have had a sense of peace about going to work in Gulf, I have had an increasing sense of peace about allocating on my own. This is a peace from God, as until recently I'd said I'd not allocate alone.



Sorting through old drafts with Tiramau in Ubuo village (D.Petterson)

Although there are a multitude of details still to be worked through, the likely plan at this stage is that I'll start by working among the Kope people in Ubuo village, learning their language and assisting them in their translation project. In the 1980s an expat translator worked with the people there. One of the local translators, Tiramau, has been holding onto a box of drafts and waiting for someone to help him move the project forward since then. As I write this newsletter, the community has nearly finished recording the Jesus Film, after six years of translating the script and preparing for recording. Between the old drafts and the new film, Kope seems to be where the momentum currently is and the place to join them as supporter, encourager and trainer. As with all plans, this is to be held lightly, as it may well change in coming months as other needs

and opportunities take priority among Gulf languages. It would also be a starting point from which to potentially support translation teams in the closely related nearby languages of Urama and Gibaio.

Thank you all for your prayers and encouragement through this year. It has been a challenging time of discerning. I am thankful for everyone I have shared this journey with and for the peace God has given me in deciding to join the work in Gulf Province.

*Hanna*



Recording the Jesus film in Kope language (D.Petterson)

## Gulf Province, July 30 – Aug 18



Urama people in Kivaumai discuss their language and compare it to their neighbours' (S.Pederson)

### Survey

As we travelled for three weeks in Gulf Province we did sociolinguist survey work. What this means is finding out about the social perspective on and uses of the local language. We did this by using specific tools to start community discussions about which languages are similar to them or different, which languages they can understand and which languages they use for what tasks and with which people. The summary of all the survey work is that the local languages are strongly used across all generations and in most areas of life. This is an encouragement! The information we collected will also be helpful for those of us working in Gulf to know things like which books can be used in which areas and at what point a different translation is needed.

### Literacy

Gulf Province has one of the lowest literacy rates in PNG, so as part of our Gulf tour, we spent a lot of time working in this area. In two villages we worked with the community to translate simple story books into their language. In numerous places we tested the literacy of children as part of an ongoing study by Robbie to help understand what is going on and how best to improve literacy. We worked with uniskript in a few places. We encouraged teachers in their work. Robbie held meetings to answer parents' questions and to encourage them in ways to support the education of their children.

Please pray for ongoing literacy in this province, as it is an area of desperate need. Pray for the teachers, parents and pupils to find a way forward together.

### Song Recordings

The third task that was part of our Gulf trip was recording worship songs in local languages. We did this in both I'ai language in Maipenairu village and Kope language in Ubuo village. In each place, there was a mix of translated and locally written songs, all sung with passion. These were edited on the computer then put on SD cards and CDs for the community to share and use.

### Stories...

There are many more stories from our time in Gulf, which I have written about on my [blog](http://blessingsandbubbles.blogspot.com). There are also plenty more pictures. Please go and have a read. Stories about our New Ireland trip will also be posted in coming weeks. I can only ever fit so much into my newsletter, so my blog is a good place to find out more of what my life here is like.

[blessingsandbubbles.blogspot.com](http://blessingsandbubbles.blogspot.com)



Working together to translate new Urama story books. (D.Petterson)



Robbie teaching uniskript to a Kope boy (D.Petterson)



Rebekah recording in Maipenairu (H.Schulz)



## New Ireland, Sept 24-Oct 15

## Tigak Hymns

(I. Glissmann)



sitting in the shade on a white sand beach, surrounded by songs of praise. It was a joy to me to see the joy with which they were praising God.

Please pray that the Tigak community will soon have raised sufficient funds to print their hymn books and that the CD recorded that day will shape hearts and lives.

## Sunday School Workshop

For two weeks we stayed in Piliwa Village on Djaul Island running a Sunday School materials production and teacher training workshop. Djaul Island is home to five Tiaang and two Tigak villages, and from these we had over forty people attend our workshop. In the morning we would have a time translation training and in the afternoon a time of teacher training. The rest of the time was spent carefully translating Sunday School stories and activities from the English or Pidgin version of the book into Tiaang and Tigak. We taught, and worked, our way through all the stages of drafting, editing, back translating and checking. We did not teach computer skills for entering and formatting the translated work as the workshop was busy enough already, so instead became skilled at typing in a language we could not read.



The Tigak team working on their translation

At the end of the course, participants told us how much they had appreciated the training and how they looked forward to using the materials they had produced. Before, people had a heart to teach children the gospel, but few resources to do it with. Now they have both the training and the physical resources to keep them teaching for some time.

The Djaul community was very generous in looking after us. We were housed in a new and fancy home and had power at night because someone brought their generator for our use. Every day we ate of the fruit of the land and the creatures of the sea, both of which are abundant in that area. We were welcomed and loved and invited back.



Checking and training with the Tiaang (I. Glissmann)

Back in the provincial capital of Kavieng we were able to print copies of the recently translated books for someone to collect and take back to Djaul Island. We were thankful that the printer only had one or two minor and fixable issues and that the printing was otherwise hassle free.

Please pray for the Djaul community, that the lessons they learnt during the workshop may be taken to heart. Changing words on a page is of little value if hearts and lives are not also changed. In all our work, it is new lives that is our goal.

## Now what?

Now that I have decided on a long term work location, there are a whole new lot of things to be thought about and decided on. As I am joining Robbie and Debbie Petterson in their work in Gulf Province, most of these decisions will be made in consultation with them.

Which village should I live in? Which family should I live with? Do I build my own house? What sort of project can I support the community in while still having time and energy for language learning? How do I make living in the village on my own sustainable in the long term? Do I buy an outboard motor and a dinghy to make all the necessary river travel easier? How much time should I spend in the village, at Kapuna with the Pettersons and at Ukarumpa? What other equipment (radio, solar etc) will I need? When can I next go and visit? etc ?!

I am going to Melbourne for Christmas and a holiday with family. I am looking forward to the holidays and the family time, but realise it will also be shopping time for village supplies and some library time to read books by early missionaries to the area. There are papers from the 1920s onwards that I will be looking at to give me some groundwork for language learning.



Rebekah, Inga, myself, Catherine and Susie, ready to leave for Djaul Is. It has been a privilege and a blessing to share this year's journey of discernment with these women. Please keep us all in your prayers as we walk our separate paths. (J.Snelson)

## Prayer Points

**Praise** that I have reached an allocation decision and that I am at peace with working on my own in a village.

**Peace and Guidance** for the others as they continue in different directions.

**Djaul Island:** Praise that our trip went so well. May the materials we worked on be used well. That someone may feel called to come and work with them to encourage them in continuing their translation programme.

**Kope People:** That the recording they have done of the Jesus Film may be the seed that brings a harvest.

**Wisdom** in all the decisions that continue to need to be made.

You show me  
the path of life.  
In your presence  
there is fullness of joy;  
Ps 16:11



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